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AN INTERVIEW WITH ASRAFF GHORBAL, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO  
TO THE USA

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"For us, Argentina is a sister country to which we feel united by identical ideals of liberation and aspirations of grandeur. Our understanding of the problems that confront you and the similarity of the objectives that mobilize both of us has deeply penetrated the conscience of all the Arab people. You are awaiting the critical battle while we are embroiled in the struggle for victory. Our improved understanding has led to the complete identity of our causes and of our hopes of carrying on to the final victory. In this process for popular self-determination, which is not new, your Minister of Social Welfare, Mr. Jose Rega López, who is an extraordinary revolutionist, has played, and still plays, a fundamental role. Arafat and Gadaffi, those two patriots given in body and soul to the cause of the Arab people and to the destruction of Israel, love him as a brother and, the material help that we give him will never be sufficient.

"The Arab peoples are convinced that the extermination of Judaism in the Middle East is the point of departure for any process of their liberation. What, in today's world, is called 'the oil problem', that is, the problem of the prices we demand in order to maintain our industries, is nothing more than a tactical procedure, in the war against Judaism, in order to show them that the positions have been reversed and that they are now the dependents.

"Don't make mistakes. The psychological war being developed by certain big Powers generalizes the unity of the West against our right to demand a just price for our fundamental product-oil. But the unity doesn't exist. What really exists is the objective of continuously using Judaism as a bridgehead in order to confront our independence and grandeur, which are not different from yours. Thus, our irrevocable decision is to destroy Judaism as has been promised by our friends here in the United States, Russia and also in your country, as has been established by Rega López.

(over)

What I have stated is, briefly, the answer to your question as to how visualize the problem of the Middle East and the world. We see this as a stage in our struggle for the liberation and the grandeur of a world like the Arab; a world which, after having given to humanity the wonderful architecture of Granada, religious tolerance and respect for the beliefs of other people - by allowing the building of churches next to our mosques - and after having given birth to the most extraordinary mathematicians of ancient times and to the most profound humanist philosophers, has been arrested in its natural evolution by the power and shame of colonialism. Precisely that element which has negated our self-determination, in order to take advantage of our oil resources: Judaism - as a bridgehead of the colonialist exploitation - has to disappear; today, tomorrow or the day after- but it will disappear!

"Arafat's men guarantee the fulfilment of our determination to defend the oil fields to the last soldier, and to destroy them in case there is a possibility of their being occupied by the enemy. By the way, you can get more precise information about this in your country since a group of your compatriots is receiving guerilla training in Libya. The validity of the guerilla liberation war, equally valid for both of us, is proved by the mysticism of your compatriots in Libya. It represents our last resource in case we are overcome and is emulated in the Armed Forces of our countries and yours. Your country doesn't lack Colonels who are prepared to overthrow their Generals as Nasser did. Your men and women are, likewise, preparing themselves to safeguard the national honour. There are elements hostile to our causes, among them the Roman Catholic Church, which has revealed itself as the most dangerous barrier to the liberation of nations. About this particular aspect, Gadaffi has been clear, and I see him as a kind of watch-dog over the capitalist periphery, much as we see Brazil and Argentine."

In response to a final question about possible Soviet influence on his answers, Ghorbal replied: "In no way. It is true that Moscow tried various tactics to control us militarily, but this has been overcome".

Jerusalem Post, March 18, 1975

"... and then came a clever man from America  
and brought us peace..."

